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GRADE 6 LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM SPECIFICATIONS

The Language Arts Curriculum Specifications for Achievement Tests in Grade 6 were prepared in July, 1981, by a committee of classroom teachers, Language Arts consultants, and Alberta Education personnel under the direction of the Curriculum Branch. These specifications were revised and validated in January, 1982. Alberta Education acknowledges with appreciation the contributions of the members of the Grade 6 Language Arts Committee.

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Two major criteria for the Grade 3 Language Arts Achievement Tests were used as the criteria underlying the *curriculum specifications* for the Grade 6 Language Arts Achievement tests. They are:

1. to be based wholly on the *Program of Studies for Elementary Schools, 1978* (amended 1981).
2. to reflect the wholeness of the Language Arts program through integrating a taxonomy of levels of *thinking* with the various *communication skills*. These include the receptive components of listening, viewing, reading, and the expressive components of speaking and writing.

WEIGHTING FACTORS

Varied emphases are reflected in the system of weighting *frequency* (time spent) and *importance*.

1. Time Factor

The Curriculum Specifications Committee recommended frequency ratings from 5 (high frequency) to 1 (low frequency) comparable to the amount of time spent in class mastering the various *concepts* (e.g. Supporting Details) and percentage weightings on the Language Arts *skills* (e.g. Listening). When and where percentage weightings are given, a range from 5 to 10 per cent is suggested. The only exception is Reading, for which 25 per cent of time is recommended. For example, it is advised that 25 - 35 per cent of class time be spent on *writing concepts* while a moderate amount of class time be spent on *main idea* because it is categorized as a 3.

2. Importance Factor

The *importance* factor, separate from the *time* factor, is represented by the letters A, B, C, D as follows:

- A - Extremely important
- B - Very important
- C - Important
- D - Somewhat important

The objective *main idea* weighted 3B, therefore, means an average amount of time is spent on it (3) and it is very important (B). [See Table 3]

For further clarification of *curriculum specification* concepts, readers should refer to the concept and skill statements in the *Program of Studies for Elementary Schools*, 1978 (revised 1981).

Table 1 outlines the percentage range of classroom time suggested for each of the communications skills. Table 2 outlines the time suggested for each of the taxonomic levels. Table 3 presents detailed *curriculum specifications*.

Table 1

Grade 6 Language Arts Total Curriculum

MODALITIES	PERCENTAGE RANGE
WRITING	25 - 35
READING	25
VIEWING	10 - 15
LISTENING	15 - 20
SPEAKING	15 - 25
TOTAL	100

Table 2
Grade 6 Language Arts

TAXONOMIC LEVELS	TIME WEIGHTING IN PER CENT
I. LITERAL UNDERSTANDING	10 - 20
A. Recognizing and Recalling	
II. INFERENTIAL UNDERSTANDING	20 - 30
A. Inferring	
B. Interpreting	
C. Predicting	
D. Concluding	
III. APPLICATION	25 - 35
A. Locating and Organizing	
B. Classifying	
C. Synthesizing	
IV. EVALUATION	10 - 20
A. Distinguishing	
B. Judging Appropriateness	
C. Judging Worth, Desirability, and Acceptability	
V. APPRECIATION	10 - 20
A. Responding	
TOTAL	100

Table 3

Grade 6 Language Arts Curriculum Specifications

TIME WEIGHTING IN PER CENT*		IMPORTANCE** FREQUENCY***	LISTENING 15 - 20%	VIEWING 10 - 15%	READING 25%	SPEAKING 15 - 25%	WRITING 25 - 35%
10-20%	I. LITERAL UNDERSTANDING A. Recognizing and Recalling 1. main idea 2. supporting details 3. vocabulary (contextual [semantic, syntactic], phonetic, and structural) 4. sequence 5. direction (procedures) 6. comparison and contrast 7. classification 8. character traits 9. relationships (e.g. cause and effect) 10. conventions of the language (e.g. mechanics, levels of usage) 11. feelings and emotions 12. structure of language (e.g. syntax) 13. forms of literature (e.g. fairy tale, limerick) 14. elements of the writer's craft (e.g. author's purpose, point of view, rhythm, sensory image)	3B 3B 3B 2B 3B 2C 2C 3C 4B 4D 2C 4D 5C 4C	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X		

* Weighting code (based on what the teachers recommended):
Percentages represent time spent

**	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>
	Extremely Important	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important

***	5	4	3	2	1
	High				Low
	Frequency				Frequency

TIME WEIGHTING IN PER CENT*		IMPORTANCE** FREQUENCY***	LISTENING 15 - 20%	VIEWING 10 - 15%	READING 25%	SPEAKING 15 - 25%	WRITING 25 - 35%
20-30%	II. INFERENTIAL UNDERSTANDING						
	A. <u>Inferring</u>						
	1. main idea	3B	X	X	X		
	2. details	3C	X	X	X		
	3. vocabulary (contextual [semantic, syntactic], phonetic, and structural)	4A	X	X	X		
	4. sequence	3B	X	X	X		
	5. comparison and contrast	3B	X	X	X		
	6. classification	3C	X	X	X		
	7. character traits	3B	X	X	X		
	8. relationships (e.g. time and distance, cause and effect)	4B	X	X	X		
	9. structure of language	5B	X	X	X	X	X
	10. elements of writer's craft (e.g. author's purpose, point) of view, mood, theme)	4B	X	X	X		
	B. <u>Interpreting</u>						
	1. body language (e.g. facial expression, voice quality)	1B	X	X			
	2. figurative language (e.g. simile, metaphor)	2B	X	X	X		
	3. feelings and emotions	3B	X	X	X		
	4. role of reader/writer, viewer/illustrator, speaker/listener	2B	X	X	X	X	X
	C. <u>Predicting</u>						
	1. predicting outcomes	4A	X	X	X		
	D. <u>Concluding</u>						
	1. drawing conclusions	4A	X	X	X		
	2. making generalizations	4A	X	X	X		

TIME WEIGHTING IN PER CENT*		IMPORTANCE** FREQUENCY***	LISTENING 15 - 20%	VIEWING 10 - 15%	READING 25%	SPEAKING 15 - 25%	WRITING 25 - 35%
25-35%	III. APPLICATION A. <u>Locating and Organizing and Using</u> 1. information from a wide variety of sources (e.g. bibliography, dictionary, thesaurus, resource person) B. <u>Classifying</u> 1. wide variety of forms of expression (e.g. myth, poem, report, conversation) C. <u>Synthesizing</u> 1. formation of sensory images 2. use of increasingly complex forms or structures of language (e.g. precise words, modifiers, kinds of sentences) 3. use of language arts skills in increasingly widening contexts a) in a variety of forms (e.g. report, biography) b) for a variety of audiences (e.g. peer group, newspaper readers) c) for a variety of purposes (e.g. to entertain, to persuade) d) in a variety of situations (e.g. class assembly, personal use)	5A 3B 3B 4A 4A 2A 4A 4A	X X X X X X X X	X X X X X X X X	X X X X X X X X	X X X X X X X X	X X X X X X X X
10-20%	IV. EVALUATION A. <u>Distinguishing</u> 1. reality/fantasy 2. fact/opinion 3. plausibility/exaggeration	2B 3B 3B	X X X	X X X	X X X	X X X	X X X

TIME WEIGHTING IN PER CENT*		IMPORTANCE** FREQUENCY***	LISTENING 15 - 20%	VIEWING 10 - 15%	READING 25%	SPEAKING 15 - 25%	WRITING 25 - 35%
	<p>B. Judging Appropriateness</p> <p>1. structure of language (e.g. syntax) 4B X X X X X</p> <p>2. conventions of language (e.g. proofreading, formal/informal language, punctuation, volume, pitch) 4B X X X X X</p> <p>3. level of attention according to purpose 1B X X X X X</p> <p>4. adjustment of rate to suit purpose 1B X X X X X</p> <p>C. Judging Worth, Desirability, and Acceptability</p> <p>1. ideas (e.g. absurdity, feelings, humor) 2B X X X X X</p> <p>2. importance of acceptable social behavior 3B X X X X X</p>						
10-20%	<p>V. APPRECIATION</p> <p>A. Responding</p> <p>1. emotional response to content 4B X X X X X</p> <p>2. author's use of language</p> <p>a) different types and forms of literature 1B X X X X X</p> <p>b) elements of the writer's craft 2B X X X X X</p> <p>c) delights and pleasures of language 1A X X X X X</p> <p>c) visual and auditory imagery - rhythm in language 3A X X X X X</p>						

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